United Nations DP/2008/19

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008 (21 to 28 January 2008)

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2008/1

UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009, including additional security measures for UNDP personnel and premises

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements in the budget estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, as contained document DP/2008/3;

2. *Also takes note of* the finding of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that there is room for further improvement on presenting information on the link with specific programmes of work or activities, which should allow assessment of the cost effectiveness and degree of achievement of expected results;

3. *Approves* gross regular resources in the amount of $853.6 million, as presented in document DP/2008/3, subject to the provisions of the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Administrator to ensure that the biennial support budget is consistent with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, and its annexes, as augmented and amended in accordance with decision 2007/32 and in accordance with the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review, and to submit a report to the Executive Board at its second regular session, 2008;

5. *Takes note* of the concerns expressed by the ACABQ on the tendency for upward reclassification (DP/2008/5), and *requests* UNDP to exercise the utmost restraint in implementing its proposal for upward reclassifications, with clear justifications in line with International Civil Service Commission standards;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator to include in future budget submissions an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiencies achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report on the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial reporting;

7. *Decides* that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of resources, *urges* UNDP to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and *further urges* UNDP to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

8. *Recalls* the request to the Administrator, in decisions 2007/18 and 2007/33, to submit to the Executive Board, at its first regular session 2009, a report with proposals for realigning cost classification of activities funded from the programme financial framework and the biennial support budget, in the context of the preparation of the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, and in this regard *encourages* the Administrator to intensify consultations with other United Nations funds and programmes in order to harmonize, to the extent possible, the attribution of costs between the programme and support budgets;

9. *Requests* the Administrator to include in the report on cost classification, at the first regular session 2009, information on the concept and methodology determining the minimum base structure, as well as a description of that structure;

10. *Reaffirms* decision 2007/18 on UNDP cost recovery, and *requests* the Administrator to realign the funding modality of UNDP management activities to ensure that cost-recovery income bears the support cost associated with all 'other resources'-funded activities within the next biennium, in order to implement decisions 2003/22 and 2005/33;

11. *Requests* the Administrator, in close cooperation with other United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to harmonize the methodology of results-based budgeting and to improve targets and indicators, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

12. *Also requests* information on steps and progress made with respect to the requests made in paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11, above, at the second regular session 2008;

13. *Approves* the maximum expenditure of $9 million from regular resources to cover the costs of introducing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the end of 2009;

14. *Requests* the Administrator to include information on support requirements related to all sources of funding in future biennial support budgets, in accordance with paragraph 12 of the ACABQ recommendations (DP/2008/5);

15. *Requests* the Administrator to present the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, for the approval of the Executive Board, at the second regular session 2009;

16. *Takes note of* the consolidated summary of UNDP funding requirements for security activities*;

17. In that regard, *approves* the net amount of $51.2 million as a separate requirement from regular resources to cover security measures mandated by the United Nations;

18. *Endorses* the proposal of the Administrator to grant him exceptional authority, during 2008-2009, to access up to an additional 20 per cent ($10.2 million) of the $51.2 million proposed net regular resources earmarked for security measures, mandated by the United Nations. UNDP will limit the use of those funds to new and emerging security mandates, as defined in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security directives, and will report to the Executive Board on the use of those funds in its annual review of the financial situation.

24 January 2008

2008/2

UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and resources mobilization framework

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements in the budget estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, as contained in document DP/2008/4;

2 *Also takes note of* the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Approves* the gross appropriations in the amount of $23,044,000, as indicated in table 2 of the report, to be utilized for the purposes indicated in the report;

4. *Requests* UNIFEM to include in future budget submissions an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiency achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report against the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial reporting;

5. *Decides* that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of overall resources, *urges* UNIFEM to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and *further urges* UNIFEM to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNIFEM, in close co-operation with the other United Nations Funds and Programmes, to continue to harmonize and improve the methodology of results-based budgeting, and *requests* a briefing on the steps taken and progress achieved on budget-related issues at the second regular session 2008, including issues related to indicators, targets and the cost classification of items in the results based budgets;

7. *Requests* the Administrator, UNDP, to present the 2010-2011 biennial support budget for Executive Board approval at the second regular session 2009;

* As outlined in document DP/2008/CRP.2

8. *Welcomes* the UNIFEM response to decision 2007/35 requesting information relating to the resource mobilization framework, and *encourages* UNIFEM to expand its financial resource base by strengthening partnerships with all its stakeholders, and to diversify and deepen its donor base;

9. *Reiterates*, in this regard, that regular resources continue to be the bedrock of UNIFEM and are essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and *calls upon* donor countries, and all other countries in a position to do so, to increase their contributions to the regular resources of UNIFEM, including through multi-year pledges.

24 January 2008

2008/3
UNIFEM cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Administrator on the cost recovery policy of the United Nations Development Fund for Women as contained in document DP/2008/11;

2. *Reiterates* the need for UNIFEM to continue monitoring efforts to ensure that functions linked to the management of other resources are adequately funded without undue subsidization by regular resources.

3. *Urges* UNIFEM to harmonize its cost recovery policy with United Nations organizations for multi-donor trust funds, joint programmes and joint offices, recognizing that the adoption of these principles by United Nations organizations constitutes a step towards increased transparency and comparability of cost recovery throughout the United Nations system;

4. *Notes* the proposal in the cost-recovery policy to retain flexibility, on a case-by-case basis, and *requests* UNIFEM to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2008, on the criteria and procedures for granting exceptions from the flat rate;

5. *Requests* the management of UNIFEM to report, at the annual session 2008, on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including details of fixed and variable indirect costs and the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, and to report on the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered;

24 January 2008

2008/4
UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy (DP/2008/12);

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in finalizing the details of the strategic partnership between UNDP and UNCDF, particularly with respect to: (a) integrating the UNCDF contribution into the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011; and (b) achieving the strategic and operational objectives of the partnership, as outlined in document DP/2007/11;

3. *Requests* UNDP and UNCDF to report to the Executive Board at the annual session 2009 on progress made in implementing their strategic partnership;

4. *Takes note of* the proposed UNCDF programming and funding arrangements, 2008-2011, and reiterates its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries in order to enable UNCDF to implement its 2008-2011 Investment Plan;

5. *Decides* that the UNCDF cost-recovery policy will entail a recovery rate of 7 per cent for recovery of indirect support costs for new third party contributions and a basic 3 per cent recovery rate of indirect support costs for all new programme country contributions;

6. *Requests* the UNCDF management to report on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, for consideration at the annual session 2008.

24 January 2008

2008/5
UNOPS biennial planning and budget framework

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the biennial planning and budget framework of UNOPS (DP/2008/13), and of the strategic performance objectives, measures, targets, and associated resource requirements;

2. *Approves* the budget contained therein;

3. *Recalls* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the matter of the interfund balance, and *requests* UNOPS and UNDP to finalize settlement as a matter of priority for the 2006-2007 closure,

4. *Also recalls* the shortfall issue mentioned in paragraph 13 of the ACABQ report dated 19 December 2007, and calls upon UNOPS and UNDP, in conjunction with relevant partners, to accelerate the resolution of this issue;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to continue efforts to harmonize its budget format with the biennial support budgets of other United Nations funds and programmes, while taking into consideration the specifics of UNOPS, and to contribute to improving the methodology of results-based budgeting, including targets and indicators;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to present the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, for the approval of the Executive Board, at the second regular session 2009.

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to submit its accountability framework and oversight policy for consideration and approval by the Executive Board at its annual session 2008.

24 January 2008

2008/6
Estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the functions, management outputs, indicators and resource requirements in the estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009, as contained in document DP/FPA/2008/1;

2. *Approves* gross resources in the amount of $259.8 million, representing the total biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and *notes* that after offsetting the indirect cost recovery amount of $24 million, the estimated net resources total $235.8 million;

3. *Decides* that the appropriated amount should be used to achieve the management outputs as specified in the 16 functions presented in document DP/FPA/2008/1;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to include, in future budget submissions, an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiencies achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report on the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial review;

5. *Decides* that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of overall resources, *urges* UNFPA to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and *further urges* UNFPA to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA, in close cooperation with other United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to harmonize and improve the methodology of results-based budgeting, and requests a briefing, at the second regular session 2008, on steps taken and progress achieved on budget-related issues, including issues related to indicators, targets and cost classifications of items in the results-based budgets;

7. *Authorizes* additional funding expenditures of $6 million from regular resources to further implement the Enterprise Resource Planning (Atlas) project, including the implementation of international public sector accounting standards;

8. *Also authorizes* additional funding expenditures of $2.4 million from regular resources to replenish the security reserve;

9. *Further authorizes* that $28.4 million be used for the one-time costs of the new UNFPA organizational structure, and *urges* UNFPA to replenish its operational reserve to the mandated level by 2010, at the latest;

10. *Takes note of* the additional requirement of $5 million for funding the UNFPA security reserve;[1]

11. *Authorizes* a further expenditure of $5 million from regular resources to replenish the security reserve, in addition to the $2.4 million requested in the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2008-2009 (DP/FPA/2008/1);

12. *Endorses* the proposal of the Executive Director to grant her exceptional authority, during 2008-2009, to access up to an additional 20 per cent ($2.2 million) of the proposed security reserve expenditure requirement of $11.1 million. UNFPA will limit the use of those funds to new and emerging security mandates as defined by United Nations Department of Safety and Security directives, and will report on the use of the funds in the annual financial review to the Executive Board.

13. *Recognizes* that the field operations of UNFPA have evolved since the adoption of decision 1995/35, and *decides* that UNFPA should continue to use the current International Civil Service Commission standards to classify or reclassify international staff positions, and *further requests* UNFPA to exercise restraint when considering the upward classification of staff positions;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to present the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2010-2011 for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009.

24 January 2008

2008/7

(a) Joint report of UNDP and of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/5);

2. *Decides* to transmit the above-mentioned report to the Economic and Social Council, along with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session;

3. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to include in future reports a more qualitative assessment and analysis of results achieved, progress made and difficulties encountered, as well as lessons learned.

[1] As outlined in document DP/FPA/2008/CRP.1

(b) Recommendation regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2211(XXI) of 17 December 1966, in response to which a trust fund, subsequently renamed the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was established by the Secretary-General in 1967,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, by which the Assembly placed UNFPA under its authority, as a subsidiary organ in accordance with article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, taking into account the separate identity of UNFPA,

1. *Notes* that no formal provision was made for the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA upon the cessation of the administrative role of the Administrator of UNDP with respect to UNFPA;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of harmonizing formal appointment procedures for the funds and programmes of the United Nations;

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly, accordingly, that the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA be regularized and that the Secretary-General of the United Nations appoint the Executive Director of UNFPA for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January, after consultation with the Executive Board.

24 January 2008

2008/8

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2008, it:

Item 1

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2008:
President: H.E. Mr. Jean-Marie Ehouzou (Benin)
Vice-President Mr. Mahmudul Karim (Bangladesh)
Vice-President Mr. Gustavo Endara (Ecuador)
Vice-President H.E. Mr. Peter Burian (Slovakia)
Vice-President Mr. Thomas Gass (Switzerland)

Adopted the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2008 (DP/2008/L.1);
Adopted the report of the second regular session 2007 (DP/2008/1) and its corrigendum (DP/2008/1/Corr.1);
Adopted the annual work plan for 2008 (DP/2008/CRP.1);
Approved the tentative work plan for the annual session 2008;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2008:
Annual session 2008: 16 to 27 June 2008
Second regular session 2008: 8 to 12 September 2008

UNDF segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/1 on the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009, including additional security measures for UNDP personnel and premises;

Adopted decision 2008/2 on the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and resources mobilization framework;

Item 3
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:

Africa: Regional programme, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo;
Arab States: Kuwait and Somalia;
Asia and the Pacific: Regional programme, multi-country programmes for Fiji and Samoa, and Nepal;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional programme, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua;

Item 4
Evaluation

Took note of the following reports:
Evaluation of results-based management in UNDP (DP/2008/6);
Management response to the evaluation of results-based management in UNDP (DP/2008/7);
Evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South cooperation (DP/2008/8);
Management response to the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South cooperation (DP/2008/9);

Item 5
South-South cooperation

Approved the extension of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/2008/10);

Item 6
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2008/3 on the UNIFEM cost-recovery policy;

Item 7
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2008/4 on the UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy;

Item 8
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2008/5 on the UNOPS biennial planning and budget framework;

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 9
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Took note of the UNDP report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 (DP/2008/15);

Took note of the UNFPA report on follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2004-2005: status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2008/3);

Item 10
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted an oral decision on the reports on the UNDP accountability system and the UNFPA oversight policy, as follows: "Having considered the reports (DP/2008/16) and (DP/FPA/2008/4) and the efforts of UNDP and UNFPA to improve accountability and oversight, the Executive Board requests the administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to revert on this matter to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008, after extensive consultations with the Executive Board to review these documents, taking into account the concerns of Member States".

Item 11
Report to the Economic and Social Council

Adopted decision 2008/7 on the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council and on the recommendation regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA;

UNFPA segment

Item 12
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/6 on the estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009;

Item 13
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:

Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo;
Arab States, Europe and Central Asia: Somalia;
Asia and the Pacific: Nepal and the Pacific Island countries;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua;

Item 14
Programming arrangements

Took note of the report on TRAC-2 allocation, methodology and criteria for establishing fixed lines in the programming arrangements;

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP on 25 and 28 January 2008, which addressed the following topics: (a) progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; (b) feedback from 'delivering as one'; and (c) disaster risk reduction strategies.

TENTATIVE WORK PLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA
ANNUAL SESSION 2008
(16 to 27 June 2008, Geneva)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 16 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session - Adoption of the report on the first regular session 2008
			UNFPA SEGMENT
			STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 2007 - Report of the Executive Director for 2007 - Statistical and financial overview, 2007 - Joint UNDP/UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007
	3 - 6 p.m.		UNFPA SPECIAL EVENT
Tuesday, 17 June	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd)
		3	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNFPA - Report on funding commitments to UNFPA
	3 - 5 p.m.		Informal Briefing on Reproductive Health Commodity Security
	5 - 6 p.m.		Informal consultations on draft decisions
Wednesday, 18 June	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	4	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS - Draft country programme documents and extensions of country programmes
	3 - 5 p.m.	5	EVALUATION - Periodic report on evaluation
	5 -6 p.m.		Informal consultations on draft decisions
Thursday, 19 June	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.		**JOINT UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT**
		6	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT - Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and oversight, including the management responses - UNOPS accountability framework and oversight policy (decision 2008/5)
	3 - 5 p.m.		Panel on UN system coordinated humanitarian and emergency response: Lessons learned
	5 - 6 p.m.		Informal consultations on draft decisions
Friday, 20 June	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.		**JOINT UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		7	FIELD VISITS - Reports on field visits
	12 - 1p.m.		Informal consultations
	3 - 6 p.m.	20	OTHER MATTERS - Adoption of pending decisions (UNFPA and joint UNDP/UNFPA items) - Adoption of the tentative work plan for the second regular session 2008 for the UNFPA and the joint UNDP/UNFPA segment - Closing of the UNFPA segment

Monday, 23 June	10 a.m. - 1p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
	3 - 6 p.m.	8	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - Annual report of the Administrator - Joint UNDP/UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007 - Statistical annex
		10	FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNDP - Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP
Tuesday, 24 June	10 a.m. - 1p.m.	9	UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2008-2011 - Update on UNDP Strategic Plan, 2008-2011 as provided for in decision 2007/32, para 3 (iii) and (iv)
	3 – 5 p.m.	13	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS - Draft country programme documents - Extensions of country programmes
	5 - 6 p.m.		Informal consultations on draft decisions
Wednesday, 25 June	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	16	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS - United Nations Volunteers – Report of the Administrator
	12 - 1 p.m.		Informal consultations on draft decisions
	3 – 6 p.m.	19	SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION - Draft fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation
		11	EVALUATION - Annual report on evaluation
Thursday, 26 June	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	11	EVALUATION (cont'd) - Evaluation of NCC countries in the Arab region and management response - Evaluation of UNDG contribution to the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and management response
		14	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES - Annual report of the Executive Director
	3 - 5 p.m.	15	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND - Results-oriented annual report - Report on implementation of cost recovery policy (decision 2008/4)
	5 - 6 p.m.		Informal consultations on draft decisions
Friday, 27 June	10 a.m. -1 p.m.	17	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN - Annual report of the Executive Director - UNIFEM cost recovery policy (follow-up to decision 2008/3)
		12	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT - Update on Human Development Report consultations (GA resolution 57/264)
	3 – 6 p.m.	18	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds
		20	OTHER MATTERS - Adoption of pending decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - Adoption of the tentative work plan for the second regular session 2008 for the UNDP segment - Closing of the session